

CURRENT STATUS OF ALL CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

Claim 26. (Original) A structural section comprising:

- a) a first leg and a second leg spaced apart from said first leg and connected thereto by a horizontal segment, said first leg and said second leg each comprising:
 - i) a first end portion attached to said horizontal segment;
 - ii) a second end portion opposite said first end portion, said second end portion including an inboard extending flange in combination with a stiffener member attached along one edge thereof, said stiffener member extending downward at an oblique angle from said inboard extending flange, said stiffener member inboard from said second end portion; and
 - iii) a longitudinal clamping surface extending along said first leg and a longitudinal clamping surface extending along said second leg between said first end portion and said second end portion, each said longitudinal clamping surface positioned inboard of said stiffener member so that a distance (D2) between said longitudinal clamping surfaces is less than a distance (D3) between said stiffener members.

Claim 27. (Original) The invention recited in claim 26 wherein each said stiffener member is slanted toward said longitudinal clamping surface.

Claim 28. (Original) The invention recited in claim 26 wherein each said stiffener member is slanted away from said longitudinal clamping surface.

Claim 29. (Original) The invention recited in claim 26 wherein said stiffener member is a curvilinear stiffener member extending downward from said flange edge, said curvilinear stiffener member including a planar leg parallel to and spaced apart from said flange to provide a gap therebetween.

Claim 30. (Original) The invention recited in claim 26 wherein:

- a) said distance (D2) between the longitudinal clamping surface of said first leg and the longitudinal clamping surface of said second leg is predetermined so that said longitudinal surfaces engage a strut inserted therebetween, and

- b) said stiffener member is positioned to provide a gap between said strut and said stiffener member.

Claim 31. (Original) The invention recited in claim 30 wherein each said longitudinal clamping surface is fastened to said strut inserted between said first leg and said second leg, each said longitudinal clamping surface being positioned to locate fasteners inboard of said first leg and inboard of said second leg.

Claim 32. (Original) The invention recited in claim 26 wherein said first leg and said second leg are longer than said horizontal segment.

Claim 33. (Original) A roof truss constructed with the structural section of claim 26, wherein said roof truss comprises:

- a) a top chord member comprising said structural section;
- b) a bottom chord member comprising said structural section; and
- c) a plurality of truss web members extending between said top chord member and said bottom chord member, each said truss web member having an outside dimension equal to said distance (D2).

Claim 34. (Original) The roof truss recited in claim 33 including:

- a) a first gap extending between said oblique stiffener member of said first leg and each truss web member extending between said top chord and said bottom chord; and
- b) a second gap extending between said oblique stiffener member of said second leg and each truss web member extending between said top chord and said bottom chord.

Claim 35. (Original) The roof truss recited in claim 34 wherein each said longitudinal clamping surface is fastened to each truss web inserted therebetween.

Claim 36. (Original) A roof truss constructed with the structural section of claim 29, wherein said roof truss comprises:

- a) a top chord member comprising said structural section;
- b) a bottom chord member comprising said structural section; and
- c) a plurality of truss web members extending between said top chord member

and said bottom chord member, each said truss web member having an outside dimension equal to said distance (D2).

Claim 37. (Original) The roof truss recited in claim 36 including:

- a) a first gap extending between said curvilinear stiffener member of said first leg and each truss web member extending between said top chord and said bottom chord; and
- b) a second gap extending between said curvilinear stiffener member of said second leg and each truss web member extending between said top chord and said bottom chord.

Claim 38. (Original) The roof truss recited in claim 37 wherein each said longitudinal clamping surface is fastened to each truss web inserted therebetween.

Claim 39. (Original) A floor truss including at least one structural section according to claim 26 as a chord member of the floor truss.

Claim 40. (Original) A floor truss including at least one structural section according to claim 29 as a chord member of the floor truss.

Claim 41. (Original) A wall assembly including the structural section according to claim 26 as a track member or a stud member.

Claim 42. (Original) A wall assembly including the structural section according to claim 29 as a track member or a stud member.

Claim 43. (Original) A header assembly including at least one structural section according to claim 26 as a chord member.

Claim 44. (Original) A header assembly including at least one structural section according to claim 29 as a chord member.

Claim 45. (Original) The header assembly according to claim 43 wherein said structural section provides a top chord and bottom chord in a header over a window opening.

Claim 46. (Original) The header assembly according to claim 44 wherein said

structural section provides a top chord and bottom chord in a header over a window opening.

Claim 47. (Currently Amended) In a roof truss including a top roof truss chord, a bottom roof truss chord, and a plurality of web members extending between the top and bottom roof truss chords, ~~an improved~~ an improved roof truss wherein said top roof truss chord and an improved said bottom roof truss chord each comprise comprising:

- a) a first vertical leg spaced apart from a second vertical leg and connected thereto by a horizontal member, each vertical leg including:
 - i) a first end portion attached to said horizontal member and a second end portion opposite said first end portion;
 - ii) a clamping surface parallel to and positioned inboard of said vertical leg whereby said clamping surface of said first vertical leg is spaced apart from said clamping surface of said second vertical leg a distance (D2) so that the spaced apart clamping surfaces engage said plurality of web members extending between said top roof truss chord and said bottom roof truss chord;
 - iii) a flange attached to and extending inboard from said second end portion of said vertical leg, said flange including a stiffener extending at an oblique angle from said flange whereby said stiffener of said first vertical leg is spaced apart from said stiffener of said second vertical leg a distance (D3) greater than distance (D2) so that each said stiffener is positioned proximate said plurality of web members to provided a gap between said stiffener and each web member.

Claim 48. (Original) The invention recited in claim 47 wherein said distance (D3) is greater than the length of said vertical leg.

Claim 49. (Original) The invention recited in claim 47 wherein each said oblique angled stiffener is slanted toward said clamping surface.

Claim 50. (Original) The invention recited in claim 47 wherein each said oblique angled stiffener is slanted away from said clamping surface.

Serial No. 10/643,311

Claim 51. (Currently Amended) The invention recited in claim 47 wherein said stiffener member is curvilinear ~~member~~, each curvilinear stiffener including a planar leg parallel to and spaced apart from said flange to provide a gap between said planar leg and said flange.

Claim 52. (Original) The invention recited in claim 47 wherein each web member is fastened to said spaced apart clamping surfaces.

Claim 53. (Original) In a structural section comprising a first leg, and a second leg spaced apart from said first leg and attached thereto by a horizontal segment, said first leg and said second leg each including a first end portion attached to said horizontal segment, a second end portion opposite said first end portion, and a longitudinal clamping surface located between said first end portion and said second end portion, said longitudinal clamping surface positioned inboard of said second end portion, the improvement comprising:

flanges extending inward from said second end portions in combination with stiffeners attached along an edge of said flanges, said stiffeners extending downward at an oblique angle from said flanges, said stiffeners spaced apart a distance (D3) greater than a distance (D2) between said clamping surfaces.

Claim 54. (Original) The invention recited in claim 53 wherein each said oblique angled stiffener is slanted toward said clamping surface.

Claim 55. (Original) The invention recited in claim 53 wherein each said oblique angled stiffener is slanted away from said clamping surface.

Claim 56. (Currently Amended) The invention recited in claim 53 wherein said stiffener member is curvilinear ~~member~~, each curvilinear stiffener including a planar leg parallel to and spaced apart from said flange to provide a gap between said planar leg and said flange.

Claim 57. (Original) The invention recited in claim 53 wherein each web member is fastened to said spaced apart clamping surfaces.

Serial No. 10/643,311

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Applicant has amended Figure 13 of the patent drawings so that the distance (D3) is greater than the length of vertical legs (12a) and (12b). A replacement drawing sheet identified with "Replacement Sheet" in the top margin is attached herewith. Applicant has also attached and annotated drawing sheet identified accordingly in the top margin and showing the drawing changes in red ink.